Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claims:

1 to 31. (cancelled).

32. (Currently amended) An immunogenic composition comprising: ~~which comprises~~ a fusion protein comprising

a polypeptide selected from:

an HIV Tat protein;

a protein comprising amino acids 2-86 of Tat;

a Tat with a C-terminal histidine tail;

a Tat comprising a deletion, addition or substitution of one amino acid; and

a Tat that bears an amino acid substitution of Alanine for Lysine at position 41 in the active site region, and amino acid substitutions of Lysine for Arginine at position 78 and Glutamic acid for Aspartic acid at position 80 in the RGD motif,~~or a mutant thereof~~ linked to a polypeptide selected from:

an HIV Nef protein;

a protein comprising amino acids 2-206 of Nef;

a Nef with a C-terminal histidine tail; and

a Nef comprising a deletion, addition or substitution of one amino acid, wherein the HIV Tat protein or derivative ~~a mutant~~ thereof and the HIV Nef protein or derivative therof are linked in any orientation, ~~wherein the mutant of the HIV Tat protein is biologically inactive while maintaining its immunogenic epitopes and bears mutations in the active site and RGD motif, wherein the fusion protein is optionally linked to a fusion partner,~~ and wherein the fusion protein is in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

33. (Currently amended) The[[A]] composition ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 32, wherein the polypeptides of the fusion protein are linked in ~~comprising~~ a Tat-Nef orientation~~fusion protein or a mutant Tat-Nef fusion protein~~.

34. (Currently amended) The[[A]] composition ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 32, wherein the polypeptides of the fusion protein are linked in ~~comprising~~ a Nef-Tat orientation~~fusion protein or a Nef-mutant Tat fusion protein~~.

35. (Currently amended) The[[A]] composition ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 32, wherein the Tat protein comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:23~~is a mutant Tat protein wherein the mutant Tat protein is biologically inactive while maintaining its immunogenic epitopes and bears mutations in the active site and RGD motif~~.

36. (Currently amended) The[[A]] composition ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 32, wherein the fusion protein further comprises a fusion partner~~wherein the fusion partner comprises between 100-130 amino acids from the N-terminal of Haemophilus influenza B protein D~~.

37. (Currently amended) The[[A]] composition ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 32, wherein the Tat protein is the entire Tat protein.

38. (Currently amended) The[[A]] composition ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 32, wherein the Nef protein is the entire Nef protein.

39. (Currently amended) The[[A]] composition ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 32, wherein the ~~Tat protein is fused to an HIV Nef protein and a~~ fusion partner comprises at least amino acids 100-130 from the N-terminal of Haemophilus influenza B protein D.

40. (Currently amended) The[[A]] composition ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 32, wherein the fusion protein has a Histidine tail.

41. (Currently amended) The[[A]] composition ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 32, wherein the fusion protein is carboxymethylated.

42. (Currently amended) The[[A]] composition ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 32, additionally comprising an adjuvant.

43. (Currently amended) The[[A]] composition ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 42, wherein the adjuvant is a TH1 inducing adjuvant.

44. (Withdrawn) The[[A]] composition ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 42 which adjuvant comprises monophosphoryl lipid A or a derivative thereof such as 3 de-O-acylated monophosphoryl lipid A.

45. (Currently amended) The[[A]] composition ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 42, additionally comprising a saponin adjuvant.

46. (Currently amended) The[[A]] composition ~~as claimed in any one~~ of claim[[s]] 42, further comprising ~~to 45 which additionally comprises~~ an oil in water emulsion.

47. (Currently amended) The[[A]] composition ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 32, further comprising HIV gp160 or its derivative gp120.

48. (Currently amended) The[[A]] composition ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 42, further comprising HIV gp160 or its derivative gp120.

49. (Currently amended) The[[A]] composition ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 45, further comprising HIV gp160 or its derivative gp120.

50. (Currently amended) The[[A]] composition ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 46, further comprising HIV gp160 or its derivative gp120.

51. (Currently amended) A fusion protein comprising

an HIV Tat protein;

a protein comprising amino acids 2-86 of Tat;

a Tat with a C-terminal histidine tail;

a Tat comprising a deletion, addition or substitution of one amino acid; and

a Tat that bears an amino acid substitution of Alanine for Lysine at position 41 in the active site region, and amino acid substitutions of Lysine for Arginine at position 78

and Glutamic acid for Aspartic acid at position 80 in the RGD motif~~or a mutant thereof~~ linked to a polypeptide selected from:

an HIV Nef protein;

a protein comprising amino acids 2-206 of Nef;

a Nef with a C-terminal histidine tail; and

a Nef comprising a deletion, addition or substitution of one amino acid,

in Nef-Tat or Tat-Nef orientation~~, wherein the mutant of the HIV Tat protein is biologically inactive while maintaining its immunogenic epitopes and bears mutations in the active site and RGD motif~~.

52. (Currently amended) The fusion protein of claim 51~~composition as claimed in Claim 32~~, further comprising at least the N-terminal third of Haemophilus influenzae B protein D.

53. (Currently amended) The composition ~~as claimed in Claim~~ of claim 32, wherein the fusion protein comprises an[[the]] amino acid sequence selected from: ~~set forth in a member selected from the group consisting of~~ SEQ ID NOs: 13, 17, 21 and 25[[24]].

54. (New) The fusion protein of claim 51, wherein the Tat protein comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:23.